

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/667,723	YOSHIZAWA, HIROYUKI
	Examiner Melvin H. Pollack	Art Unit 2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment submitted 5/5/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7-12 and 16-28.
3. The drawings filed on 22 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/18/05.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other see attached office action.

MHP



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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John C. Garvey on 18 July 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: An electronic apparatus comprising:

a transmitter transmitting electronic mail in which a symbol including image information, which enables a sender to be specified therefrom, is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender, wherein said transmitter transmits the electronic mail only when an error, between the image information and prestored image information, is less than a predetermined value, and an adding unit adding to the electronic signature file a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail by a display format of the electronic signature file.

Claims 5 and 6: (cancelled)

Claims 7 and 8: ... as claimed in claim [5] 1 ...

Claim 11: An electronic apparatus comprising:

a receiver receiving electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender and a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail;

a recognizing unit recognizing the importance based on the parameter;

a display controller displaying, based on the information which indicates the importance of the electronic signature file, the electronic signature file on said display unit with a format which enables recognition of the importance; and

a display unit displaying the image information of the electronic mail, wherein said receiver receives the electronic mail only when an error, between the image information and prestored image information, is less than a predetermined value.

Claims 13-15: (Cancelled)

Claim 22: An electronic apparatus comprising:

a transmitter transmitting an electronic mail by adding to an electronic signature file of the electronic mail a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail by a display format of the electronic signature file, said electronic signature file including an email address of a sender and a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified

therefrom, wherein said transmitter transmits the electronic mail only when an error, between the image information and prestored image information, is less than a predetermined value.

Claim 23: A control apparatus for an electronic apparatus having a transmitter, comprising:

a controller controlling the transmitter to transmit electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender and a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail by a display format of the electronic signature file, wherein said transmitter transmits the electronic mail only when an error, between the image information and prestored image information, is less than a predetermined value.

Claim 24: A control apparatus for an electronic apparatus having a receiver receiving an

electronic mail and a display unit displaying the received electronic mail, comprising:

a controller controlling said receiver to receive an electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, and controlling said display unit to display the image information of the electronic mail and, based on the information which indicates the importance of the electronic signature file, the electronic signature file on said display unit with a format which enables recognition of the importance, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender and a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail by a display format of the electronic signature file, wherein said receiver receives the electronic

mail only when an error, between the image information and prestored image information, is less than a predetermined value.

Claim 26: A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to have an electronic mail function, comprising:

a transmitting section causing the computer to transmit electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender and a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail by a display format of the electronic signature file, wherein said transmitting section causes the computer to transmit the electronic mail only when an error, between the image information and prestored image information, is less than a predetermined value.

Claim 27: A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to have an electronic mail function, comprising:

a receiving section causing the computer to receive an electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an e-mail address of the sender and a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail by a display format of the electronic signature file; and

a display section causing the computer to display the image information of the electronic mail and, based on the information which indicates the importance of the electronic signature file, the electronic signature file on said display unit with a format which enables recognition of

the importance, wherein said receiver receives the electronic mail only when an error, between the image information and prestored image information, is less than a predetermined value.

All other claims remain unchanged.

In essence, the claim limitations of claims 5 and 6 (and of related claims 13-15) have been added to all independent claims not previously containing these limitations. Hence claims 5, 6, and 13-15 are cancelled, and claims 7 and 8 are changed to depend on claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-12, and 16-28 after examiner's amendment are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the examiner agrees with the arguments of the applicant regarding motivation of combining biometric systems with e-mail programs with priority data attached to electronic signature files, and further to performing biometric scans before each e-mail transmission and of including image information in the electronic signature file.
4. While biometric scanners which compare a current image to a prestored image are well known in the art, they are used primarily at a single moment for general computer resource access and not to protect access to email accounts or to be performed before every e-mail transmission. The addition of priority information, and the inclusion of image information, priority information and e-mail address information within an electronic signature file, and further the inclusion of a recipient device's ability to display the signature file and the priority of each message, describes an invention that is novel and non-obvious. Therefore, the newly amended claims 1, 11, and 21-28 are allowable for the reasons above.

5. Claims 2, 4, 7-10, 12, and 16-20 are dependent on allowable claims and thus are also allowable for the reasons above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They regard background on biometrics and security for e-mail systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H. Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (571) 272-6159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MHP
18 July 2005


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